

BURT LAKE TRAIL MEETING

May 20, 2009

Committee Present: Gary Street, Connie Vorencamp, Kim Kihnke, Mac Richardson, Dean Pollard, Bert Ebbers

Also Attending: Joyce Hutto

Absent: Linda Caverly, Frank Kestler, Ann Baughman, Karie Slavik

The Burt Lake Trail Committee was called to order by Gary Street on May 20, 2009 at 7 p.m. at the Burt Township Hall, Cheboygan, Michigan.

UPDATES

TOP OF MICHIGAN TRAIL COUNCIL (TOMTC) TRAIL RIDE

The TOMTC trail ride is set for Aug 22, 2009. Volunteers are needed for various jobs and for shuttling riders from Brutus.

BLPA

The BLPA annual meeting is set for July 11, 2009. The Trail committee would like to have a booth with information about the trail and have 2 or 3 people there to answer questions. A handout is needed to show what the trail is all about.

OVERALL TRAIL MEETINGS

Several people from surrounding townships, Cheboygan and Emmett County Planning, and TOMTC attended the meeting April 17 at Boyne Highlands. Discussed was the concept of the trail running from Topinabee to US 131. There is an issue of not having the trail run down the Brutus Road in Maple Township. Emmett County supports the trail and as funds become available, the plan is to possibly extend the trail along Brutus Road.

Burt Township will continue with plans in a phased project. Possibilities could be to have the trail going to US 131 from Brutus Road, Hardwood/Sand Road, Riggsville Road (into Pellston), or Riggsville Road to Bryant Road, and then to Douglas Lake Road. At this point, all of these options will be indicated with a dotted line.

The Trail will include three "Trail Heads": Topinabee, Maple Bay Campground on Burt Lake, and one of the above mentioned locations on US 31.

Mac Richardson said the committee should concentrate on getting the job done in Burt Township, since it is a Burt Township function. Concentrate on West Burt Lake Road, East Burt Lake Road and Topinabee Mail Route Road. Gary said the trail would need support letters from the other townships and counties for funding to go forward.

Gary reviewed the meeting of May 8, 2009. The working name of the trail is Burt Lake Trail, the developing will be in phases, and the goal of getting the DNR application done by April 2010.

BURT TOWNSHIP PLANS

Gary explained funding is needed for the engineering study. Once the engineering study is finished, the easements can be acquired and an application can be submitted to the DNR.

Three engineering firms will be contacted and be given the Request for Proposal (RFP). The funds for the engineering study could come from sources such as BLPA, banks, utility companies and townships. At least \$15,000 is needed. The Trail Committee will write an RFP which will be submitted to the engineering firms, who in turn can respond with a cost for the study, their credentials, timing, and scope of work. After receiving responses to the RFP, a company will be selected by the Trail Committee and recommended to the Burt Township Board. The engineering firm that does the work would be expected to present the trail committee with the route, available road right of way, identify issues with wetlands, etc.

Mac Richardson said to help get funding, the trail have identified stopping points at public access sites going towards the water, such as Hoppies, Roberts Road, White Goose Bay Point, Carp Creek, etc.

It is very important to have brochures prepared to give information about the trail. They are needed for fund raising, and when making presentations. Connie Vorenkamp agreed to work on this. Ann Baughman had told Gary that she could also assist on this task. Connie will ask the TOMTC to help with the brochure. An application for membership to the council could be included in the brochure. It would also explain a partnership with the council.

A goal needs to be made as to a point of time for the trail to be finished. At this time, 2011 could be the first date of construction.

Gary will get advice on whom to contact at banks and utilities companies for funding.

Gary presented an example of a legal document concerning easements showing how the state would exempt an owner from being held responsible for negligence unless the owner intentionally caused something. Property owners will need to sign an agreement of this type.

Kim Kihnke gave a report on publicity. Kim met with Donna McDougall concerning the web site. The goal is to have a dedicated page on the web site of the trail with a calendar of events, minutes of meetings, trail member names, a logo contest and other items of interest about the trail. Kim will look into the local school art classes to have students possibly create a logo.

Next meeting will be June 10 at 7 p.m. and July 8 at 7 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Joyce Hutto, secretary